

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Pg. 1 line 13 of the substitute specification filed responsive to the office action mailed 01/19/2007 with the following paragraph.

All terrain vehicles, as the name indicates, provide an attractive means for transporting various objects to remote locations which are inaccessible to other types of vehicles. ATV's normally are equipped with front and rear racks each extending generally the width of the ATV and suitable for carrying small objects which may be placed on a rack and secured as necessary. Elongated objects such as small boats or canoes useful for fishing or duck hunting at remote locations would require additional support that is not provided by standard equipment in the form of front and rear racks.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Pg. 2 line 15 of the substitute specification filed responsive to the office action mailed 01/19/2007 with the following paragraph.

The present invention is directed to an accessory rack for carrying objects such as small boats on an ATV or other vehicles providing a suitable platform for mounting the rack, in particular pickup trucks having a conventional bed. The accessory rack includes a front end assembly and a rear end assembly in facing relation, each of the assemblies having a bottom base member adapted

to be connected across an existing rack on a an ATV, an upright post connected to the base member at a center point ~~central location~~ thereof and a horizontal boat-receiving cross member connected at a center point ~~central location~~ thereof to the top of the post, the front and rear assemblies being connected to one another by an elongated beam aligned coplanar and centered with the upright posts. The cross members preferably have a portion at each end bent upwards to form a U-shaped cradle effective to keep a transported object from sliding off a side of the rack. All structural components listed above are preferably made of square steel tubing, with certain portions having dimensions different from one another so as to enable size adjustments as explained below. To provide maximum strength of the assembled device, gussets may be incorporated at all joints between structural members. Tie-down straps, threaded through openings in a bracket connected to structural members at appropriate locations, are provided to hold a transported boat down.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Pg. 4 line 5 of the substitute specification filed responsive to the office action mailed 01/19/2007 with the following paragraph.

Referring to Fig. 1 of the drawings, there is shown a boat carrier rack 10 comprising a rear support assembly 12, a front support assembly 14 and an elongated beam 16 connecting the two assemblies. Each of the assemblies has

a front bottom base member 18, a rear bottom base member 18a extending across the width of a respective existing rack on the ATV the device, an upper cross member 20, 20a bent upward at ends 22, 22a to form a cradle in which a boat or other object is received, each bottom the base member and the upper cross member being connected by a vertical post 24, 24a. With this construction, posts 24, 24a are above a center of respectived front and rear portions of the ATV (Figs. 2, 3). Joints between the vertical posts, cross members and the elongated beam are preferably reinforced by providing triangular gussets 26, 26a or rectangular plates 28, 28a at each joint.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Pg. 2 line 15 of the substitute specification filed responsive to the office action mailed 01/19/2007 with the following paragraph.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Pg. 4 line 20 of the substitute specification filed responsive to the office action mailed 01/19/2007 with the following paragraph.

Although the invention is not to be understood as limited to specific dimensions, the base members 18, 18a of the end assemblies may comprise a single piece of 1 and 1/2 inch square metal tubing having a length of 43 inches for the rear assembly 12 and 33 inches for the front assembly 14, these different lengths accommodating differences in front and rear racks as installed on ATV's. Base members are connected to cross members of installed racks by

means such as U-bolts 21 (Fig. 3) provided at each corner. As shown in Fig. 3,
base members 18, 18a are configured to be mounted to the ATV racks so that
vertical posts 24, 24a are centered with respect to a width of the vehicle.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Pg. 5 line 19 of the substitute specification filed responsive to the office action mailed 01/19/2007 with the following paragraph.

Upper portions 32, 32a of the vertical posts have their top ends connected to a center point of middle portions 42, 42a of the cross members, the middle portion being of a length extending for a distance such as two feet. End portions 22, 22a are L-shaped members having one arm 48,48a inserted in an outer end of middle portion 42, 42a and the other arms 22, 22a extending upwards, providing a barrier to keep a supported object from sliding off. Connection of end portions 22, 22a to middle portions 42, 42a are preferably made by insertion of bolts 43 through an opening in a side of this portion and engaging a jam nut 44 and a weld nut 45 underneath the jam nut as shown in Fig. 4. Varying the length of the cross member may be carried out by loosening the bolts and sliding end portions inward or outward in the middle portion. Unlike the vertical post connections described above, this connection does not require insertion of a bolt all the way through the middle portion.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Pg. 6 line 9 of the substitute specification filed responsive to the office action mailed 01/19/2007 with the following paragraph.

Beam 16 is preferably made up of three parts: stubs 50, 50a connected at the center point of to the middle portions of the cross members by means such as a bolt 53, 53a, beam portions 55, 55a and a middle sleeve member 52 which receives middle ends of portions 55, 55a. The sleeve is connected to the beam portions by bolts 54, 54a extending through the beam. Unlike the joints for vertical posts, this connection is preferably left to be made by custom fitting through a single hole in each of the inner ends for being connected to the sleeve. This approach avoids the presence of a series of bolt holes, which could result in weakening the beam. With this construction, beam 16 extends between center points of boat-receiving cross members 22, 22a longitudinally over a central region of the ATV, as shown in Fig. 2.